

Irrigation in British Columbia*

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ABOUT fifteen years ago, men became alive to the possibilities of the valleys and benches for fruit growing. In several localities, tracts of range land were bought up by companies, subdivided into five, ten and twenty-acre lots and irrigation systems were constructed. These tracts have been put on the market and have been rapidly settled, adding greatly to the development of wealth of the interior. The rapid development and marvellous results obtained on these tracts are incredible to persons not familiar with the benefits of irrigation.

Land which was a howling waste of sage brush and bench grass, and supporting a few head of stock, has been converted, in a few short years, into a community of happy and contented homes, where the most extensive farming is practised, every foot of land being highly cultivated, with the result that a family is maintained in comfort and almost affluence on ten acres of land.

THE FRUITLAND ESTATE

A notable example of the results obtained by a practical policy is the "Fruitland" estate of the Canadian Real Properties Co., at Kamloops. This estate comprises 6,000 acres lying along the North and South Thompson rivers. This land is characteristic of the dry belt, of a gently undulating surface, lending itself admirably to irrigation, free from rock, stone or timber—ready for the plow. The soil, being an alluvial deposit, is remarkably rich, and produces immense crops upon the application of water.

The tract was purchased by the company about four years ago, and the company immediately set to work to subdivide the land into small lots of about ten acres, and to construct their irrigation system. A main canal was built seventeen miles in length along the foothills bordering the North Thompson as far as Jamieson Creek, the main source of water supply. Besides their water rights in Jamieson Creek the company controls all the water in Noble, Gordon and McQueen Creeks, whose waters are diverted into the main canal as required. To make assurance doubly sure this company, during the last two years, has been raising dams on the lakes in the mountains and thus storing water to provide against a possible shortage in an exceptional dry season.

After the construction of the main canal the distributing laterals were built. They were planned in such a way that

the water is delivered to each lot by a separate gate, each man's allowance being measured accurately by means of a weir.

Two years ago the system was ready for operation and the property was put on the market. The land has sold rapidly and steadily, mostly to people who settled on their land, with the result that what was yesterday an unproductive waste, is now a thriving community where those who were fortunate enough to settle are already realizing handsome returns from small crops.

SOME FRUIT RETURNS

It is the custom of the settlers on this tract, while waiting for the trees to come into bearing, to plant between the tree rows small crops, such as potatoes, tomatoes and berries. The profits from these small crops have been very satisfactory as the following figures show.

ties for investment which will give returns unsurpassed anywhere in the old or new world.

Chickens in an Orchard

Is there any danger in keeping chickens in an orchard that has been sprayed? Would fowls keep down the pests without need of spraying?—A. T., Hants County, N. S.

The chickens can be kept in a sprayed orchard without injury, and they will help to keep down certain pests, such as curculio. They will not keep down all the insect pests, and of course can have no effect whatever upon fungous diseases, such as apple scab, bitter rot, and so forth. Keep the fowls in the orchard, and it will help both the chickens and the trees—but you will still need to spray

Marketing Currants

Wm. Fleming, Owen Sound, Ont.

Currants for shipment should not be so ripe when picked as for home market. Every step in the operation of harvesting and marketing should be



Some British Columbia Peaches from a Three-Year-Old Tree
Grown in Orchard of Mr. R. H. Agur, Sumnerland

Last year potatoes netted at the rate of \$75 an acre; strawberries \$600; and tomatoes, \$1,000.

ROOM FOR GOOD SETTLERS

These small irrigated fruit farms will in the near future be a big factor in the development and wealth-production of this province. All that is required is settlers of the right kind. British Columbia has been specially favored with the conditions that draw the very best people. A climate unequalled in Canada, magnificent scenery, splendid hunting and fishing—these are the considerations which will draw people of culture and people of wealth to the province, who, at the same time, will find opportuni-

intelligently made. The fruit should be perfectly dry and not too ripe.

When picking black currants, the clusters should be stripped. Those of red and white currants should be pinched off the bush carefully, so as to prevent all possible bruising. The picker should gather the fruit in small baskets and deposit it in the shipping basket, which should always be kept in the shade and disturbed as little as possible.

Ship the fruit soon after picking, as a day's delay may ruin a shipment if the weather is unfavorable. The fruit should be shipped in eleven-quart baskets, which should be clean and new. Fill them according to the golden rule.

* A continuation of the article on Irrigation that appeared in the June issue.